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RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 2741
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 7853
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SUBJECT: INDIAN SUPPORT FOR STRONG UNHRC CANDIDATES, US
PARTICIPATION

REF: A. STATE 60967

[1](#)B. STATE 57036

[1](#)1. (SBU) Ambassador sent Ref B letter from the Secretary to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (in his capacity as Acting Foreign Minister) on April 12. PolCouns followed up and conveyed Ref A demarche to MEA Joint Secretary (UN Economic and Social) Manjiv Puri on April 24. Puri informed us that India has already made a formal pledge to support the strongest possible Human Rights Council (HRC) and to uphold domestic and international commitments to human rights, a pledge that was being distributed via the Indian Mission in New York and embassies overseas.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Puri said that the lack of a U.S. presence was a "deficiency" in the HRC, as the U.S. was "critical" to the UN's human rights promotion efforts. The U.S. "brings to the table things we value" by promoting good practices of human rights, and India would be pleased to support a U.S. candidacy in the future, Puri stated.

INDIAN PLEDGE FOR HRC CANDIDACY

[1](#)3. (SBU) Puri's office faxed the Indian pledge to us on April 25. The document announces India's candidacy for the HRC and commits India to "make the Human Rights Council a strong, effective and efficient body capable of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all," participate "in the reform of the United Nations human rights machinery" and "norm-setting in the field of human rights," and "participate constructively in developing modalities for universal periodic review by the Human Rights Council," among other pledges. The Indian pledge does NOT/NOT set criteria by which India would decide support for other states' candidacies. Post will fax a copy of the Indian pledge to the Desk, and expects we will see later a formal reply to the

Secretary's letter.

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14. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website:
(<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/>)
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